

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02741 151141Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1739
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CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 2741

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SECVISIT: SCENARIO FOR CAIRO

REF: CAIRO 2060

1. OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS HAVE DONE IT AGAIN. TWO DAYS AGO, FAHMY RECONFIRMED THAT SCENARIO CITED REFTEL, WHICH HAD BEEN WORKED OUT WITH HIM, WAS AGREEABLE. LAST NIGHT HE TELPHONED TO REOPEN THE WHOLE QUESTION. IT APPEARS THAT ONLY YESTERDAY AFTERNOON DID PRESIDENT SADAT FOCUS ON THE SCENARIO. SADAT EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IS TOO BRIEF TO GIVE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW THE SECRETARY AND TO ALLOW A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. AS FAHMY PUT IT, THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME "TO BREAK THE ICE."

2. THE PRESIDENT, ACCORDING TO FAHMY, WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE SECRETARY MEET FIRST WITH FAHMY, WHO WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO BRIEF SADAT PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S

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MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. GIVEN THE PRESIDENT'S DESIRE, FAHMY PROPOSED THAT THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF BE CANCELLED OR BE RESCHEDULED TO SOME OTHER TIME AND THAT INSTEAD THE SECRETARY MEET IMMEDIATELY ON ARRIVAL WITH FAHMY AT HIS TAHRIR OFFICE. IF THE SECRETARY WISHED, HE COULD GO TO THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING

IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE EMBASSY STAFF BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THE BARRAGES FOR THE MEETING WITH SADAT. I POINTED OUT THAT THE SECRETARY'S INSTRUCTIONS HAD EXPRESSLY CALLED FOR INITIAL MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR AND SELECTED EMBASSY STAFF TO ALLOW A BRIEFING. I RECALLED WE HAD EARLIER DISCUSSED THIS AND HE, FAHMY, HAD AGREED. FAHMY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD EARLIER AGREED, BUT AGAIN CARPED THAT THE WHOLE VISIT IS TOO SHORT AND THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR AN ADEQUATE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. HE ASSUMED THE SECRETARY ALREADY HAS BRIEFING PAPERS AND SUGGESTED I COULD BRIEF THE SECRETARY IN THE CAR EN ROUTE FROM AIRPORT.

3. FAHMY ALSO SAID THAT HE WILL WANT TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT FURTHER ABOUT THE SCENARIO AND WILL DO SO TODAY. CONCEIVABLY, FAHMY NOTED, THE PRESIDENT WILL HIMSELF DECIDE TO GIVE THE DINNER FOR THE SECRETARY ON THURSDAY EVENING IN WHICH CASE FAHMY WOULD GIVE THE LUNCH. IF THIS SWITCH IS AGREEABLE TO THE PRESIDENT, THEN THE INITIAL PLANS COULD GENERALLY BE FOLLOWED. THE SECRETARY COULD FIRST COME TO THE EMBASSY FOR A BRIEFING AND TO TALK TO THE STAFF AND THEREAFTER GO TO FAHMY'S OFFICE IN TAHRIR FOR A TALK. FAHMY WOULD THEN ESCORT HIM TO FONMIN'S APARTMENT FOR LUNCH. TALK AND DINNER WITH THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE THAT EVENING.

4. FAHMY INDICATED THAT HE HAD UP TO THAT TIME RECEIVED ONLY A WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
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ABOUT THE SCENARIOR, BUT HAD NOT YET HAD CHANCE TO TALK TO SADAT. HE HOPED TO DO SO ASAP. THIS MORNING HE ASKED ME TO COME BY AND I HAVE JUST SPENT THE LAST TWO HOURS WITH HIM. HE TRIED REPEATEDLY TO CONTACT THE PRESIDENT AT THE BARRAGES, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. HE IS CONTINUING HIS EFFORTS AND HOPES TO BE ABLE ASCERTAIN THE PRESIDENT'S WISHES WITHIN THE NEXT FEW HOURS. HE WILL CALL ME AS SOON AS HE TALKS WITH SADAT.

5. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AT LEAST SOME AND POSSIBLY MAJOR REVISIONS OF THE SCENARIOR REPORTED REFTEL ARE LIKELY TO BE REQUIRED. WILL SEND REVISED SCENARIO AS SOON AS WE HAVE DEFINITE WORD FROM EGYPTIANS. MEANWHILE, WISH ALERT SECRETARY'S PARTY TO LIKELIHOOD OF CHANGE.
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